THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 20-21 | Oncilla

phoenixdragon1690

Hello, happy Star Wars Day, and welcome back to the TDP reread! There's quite a lot in our chapters this week, with Scarlet's trial and the book's most moving scene; the pace is really picking up as we near the last third of the book.

This reread may contain SPOILERS for any and all Wings of Fire books. If you have not finished the series, read ahead at your own peril.

SUMMARY
Chapter 20: Clay and Peril talk all night, and eventually the sun begins to rise and dragons begin to arrive for the trial. Clay explains to Peril that Kestrel raised him as the arena fills; Peril muses that it's probably better to have terrible parents than no parents, but Clay isn't sure he agrees. Vermillion and Osprey come out (to play prosecution and defense, respectively), with Peril explaining their roles to Clay, and then the trial begins. To everyone's surprise (and Scarlet's annoyance), Osprey chooses to actually defend the prisoner, and explains about her twin egg and her dragonet with too much fire. He describes how Kestrel fled when Scarlet ordered her to kill the dragonets, and when they caught her, Scarlet gave a new order: kill one dragonet, and the other could live. But Scarlet changed her mind; Kestrel tried to flee, but Peril's scales burned her talons and...well, you know the rest. Unable to keep still any longer, Peril leaps out from behind Clay (accidentally burning through one of his wires in the process) and calls upon the tradition of the Champion's Shield to defend her mother.

Chapter 21: Scarlet is furious that Peril knows about this tradition, so she murders Osprey by dropping him out of the sky. Gruesome death count: 6 (we're counting the scavenger now). Despite her anger, Scarlet accepts Peril's use of the Champion's Shield, letting slip that Burn is coming to the Sky Kingdom. Scarlet and the crowd leave; Peril leaves as well, but not before rejecting Kestrel's gestured request to talk.
Clay thinks out the situation, deciding that they need to escape before Scarlet's birthday games the next day, but without Peril, he doesn't know how, and Peril doesn't show that day. Around sunset, Burn and some of her army arrive at the palace. Burn comes and inspects the DoD in the arena. Clay worries more, until he notices that the wire around his foreleg is broken. Removing what's left, he figures out how to make sound with the broken wire on the other wires. In what is one of the most moving and hopeful scenes in the series, Clay starts to play the dragonets' song, and all the prisoners join in, singing into the night.
Scarlet and Burn, of course, are furious about this, and storm out to drag the Dragonets of Destiny into the palace.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK
"Even if this didn't get Peril's attention, the singing filled him with a wild, hopeful feeling. It seemed like every prisoner in the sky was singing now. He was pretty sure he could even hear Tsunami's croaky voice and Starflight's pure tenor.
"This song meant something, even to dragons hardened on the battlefield and in the arena. They believed in the dragonets and in the prophecy. For the first time, Clay's dreams of doing something big and legendary and helpful seemed like they belonged to this world instead of his imagination."

Sniffle

THE DRAGONETS

"[The heat from Peril's scales] also kept the nightmares away. While he was talking to her, the weight of Clay's guilt felt lighter. Which was strange, he knew: Peril was responsible for a lot more death than he was."

WORLDBUILDING
"He was left with a stretch of wire about the length of his own tail. It was made of a hard sinewy metal that gleamed silvery-pink in the last rays of the sun--the same stuff in the bands on his wings. He could guess that it was fireproof, or other prisoners would have blazed through the wires long before him. Which meant Peril's scales must be significantly hotter than regular fire, to blaze through the wire so easily."

I would dearly like to know what kind of metal this is. I imagine it's not found on Earth. I also imagine it's widely used in the firebreathing tribes.

"...and vanished beyond a distant wall, where Clay guessed the landing field for visitors was." Nice touch.

I believe this is our first mention of the Scorching--from Peril, somewhat surprisingly!

BIOLOGY AND CULTURE
"Osprey cleared his throat, coughing out a black puff of smoke." I wonder what black smoke means compared to other smoke....

Twin eggs and the resulting firescales feature prominently in chapter 20.

Champion's Shield!

"Clay had never thought about how a dragon needs his tail for balance while flying."

BODY LANGUAGE + NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION:
"Kestrel reared up with a muffled roar. From the look on her face, Clay could tell she'd thought Peril was dead this entire time."

"Queen Scarlet beat her wings, and all the dragons turned their attention to her."

"After a minute, [Burn] hissed at him with a forked black tongue."

CULTURAL BIASES
Nothing--surprising amounts of unity in these chapters, actually. All the prisoners want the war to end, and believe the Dragonets of Destiny can make this happen.

DRAGONSPEAK
Nothing.

DIFFERENCES WITH LATER BOOKS
Just in thematic atmosphere.

COMMENTARY
" He couldn't see Peril's face, but her silence said a lot. She didn't think he was going to survive this place. Or maybe she thought that if he did, it would be at the expense of her own life."

"Here, stop it or we'll drop you," one of them snarled.
"But he's a--" the other one started.
"Shhhh," said the first. You heard the queen. We don't call them that."

Poor SkyWing guards.

As always, annotations would be appreciated.

See you next week as Scarlet imprisons the dragonets in a different place, and Peril helps them to escape.

Previous reread: /323644 Index: /317770

Such is the path of a dreamer: I find my way by moonlight.

~Oncilla~

Queen of Non Sequitur, Bookwyrms, Pangolins, and Bones

Trash Squad, Werewolf, GASTER FOLLOWER

Writer, roleplayer, nerd

WoFMBer Dec. 2014-Mar. 2019

THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 20-21 | Oncilla

fairydragon1798

Great work, Oncilla!

And I would do the annotations, but I'm already procrastinating on too many projects. XD

0

~Fairydragon~
She/Her

We *will* never *be forgotten*
for we've all played our parts
and if the memories are erased
they'll still be in our hearts

THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 20-21 | Oncilla

phoenixdragon1690

poke

0

Such is the path of a dreamer: I find my way by moonlight.

~Oncilla~

Queen of Non Sequitur, Bookwyrms, Pangolins, and Bones

Trash Squad, Werewolf, GASTER FOLLOWER

Writer, roleplayer, nerd

WoFMBer Dec. 2014-Mar. 2019

THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 20-21 | Oncilla

cleverdragon364

I'm almost done copying down the annotations; they should be here soonish.

0

***Clever,** A Very Clevery Guy* ❤❤❤
[exits, pursued by a bear]
bringing you cool good posts: Dec. 2014 - March 2019
appreciating and supporting you: today - forever!!!!

THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 20-21 | Oncilla

cleverdragon364

Chapter 20

He noticed she had traded her gold chain mail for a vest with small black chain links instead, studded with diamonds.
Tui: My dragons don't wear clothes, obviously, but I like being able to give them cool and shiny accessories, especially in cases like this, where the black is supposed to represent her more grim and official role as judge, but it's also set with sparkly diamonds because this is Scarlet, so it's really all about appearance.

"I guess even terrible parents are better than no parents," Peril said.
Tui: This is one of the series themes that I don't have an answer to myself, but I think it's big and complicated and interesting to think about.

Would Kestrel have been better for her than Queen Scarlet?
Tui: You know what? In this case, I'm pretty confident saying yes, I think Kestrel would have been a better mother for Peril than Scarlet was. Even if she was grumpy and harsh, you still couldn't get much worse than Scarlet.

"Somewhere in the Mud Kingdom, there's a pair of dragons who can't wait to get me back."
Tui: This dream is really really key to all five dragonets and their personalities...and how they react to the reality they each find is also very significant - something I thought about a lot for each of them!

"The dragonets were detective," Osprey went on stubbornly. "One had too much fire. The other did not have enough. As per SkyWing custom, you ordered Kestrel to kill them both and stay out of the breeding program for the rest of her life."

Tui: This storyline ties in with another theme I'm really interested in - making assumptions about children (or young dragons) without actually giving them a chance. I also wanted to explore different ideas of what could be "wrong" with a dragonet...like Sunny, who's missing the dangerous SandWing tail weapon...or in this case, dragons born with too much or too little fire.

"You caught her at the Diamond Spray River," Osprey said.
Tui: Remember in the prologue when Kestrel says she should have snuck into the palace to get the SkyWing egg - because "they wouldn't have caught me a second time"? This is the first time she was talking about.

"She must choose one of the dragonets to die, and then you would spare the other's life, and Kestrel's own."
Tui: THE WORST. THE WORST ORDER EVER. SCARLET IS THE WORST.

"She killed the dragonet with too little fire, right there at the river. With her own claws."
Tui: Poor little dragon. In my other version of this story, his name would have been Ember. But I'll probably use that name for someone else now, so don't get attached to it!

"She fled, leaving her only living dragonet at your mercy."
Tui: That's pretty terrible, too...but I wonder what else she could have done.

From the look on [Kestrel's] face, Clay could tell she'd thought Peril was dead this entire time.
Tui: Surprise!

"You're the one who burned her when she tried to save you. She thought she chose wrong. That's why she didn't come back for you."
Tui: Lie. Kestrel didn't come back for Peril because she assumed Scarlet killed her the minute Kestrel was gone.

"Aren't I a better mother than her anyway?"
Tui: Have I mentioned (enough times) that I was writing these books shortly after my first baby was born? So I was thinking a lot about terrible mothers - and maybe writing the worst ones I could think of, to reassure myself that at least I wouldn't be THAT bad!

Chapter 21

"I bet you did," Scarlet said. "With claws that burn right through paper when you touch it."
Tui: Yet another tragedy of Peril's life...she can't hold a scroll, so she can never read anything! (And Pyrrhia doesn't have audiobooks!) Is this the saddest part of being her? I think maybe.

"I hope this has been a lesson to any other dragons who were thinking of teaching my champion bad habits," [Scarlet] said, glaring around the arena.
Tui: As if the SkyWings didn't already have enough reasons to avoid being friends with Peril...

She reached for Osprey's talons and stopped, her claws hovering over his, agonizingly close but not touching.
Tui: I think Osprey knew he was going to die the minute he spoke the truth to Queen Scarlet about Kestrel. The only reason to defend her the way he did was to let Peril know what really happened...so although this is sad, and poor Peril will blame herself, I feel like Osprey went into this trial expecting to make this sacrifice for her sake. (Exceptionally snarky note from Clever: IIRC Osprey is literally never mentioned ever again, not even in Escaping Peril.)

Kestrel pointed to the chains around her mouth. She wanted to talk to Peril.
Tui: This would drive me crazy - to have to sit through this trial and see Peril right there, but not be able to say a word.

Burn was the worst possible dragon to get her claws on the dragonets of destiny.
Tui: This is true, because she's not one of those villains who draws out her evil plans - unlike Scarlet, who wants to play with her captives first, Burn would rather just kill them off right away.

The only song he knew was the one Tsunami sometimes sand to annoy the guardians - about the dragonets coming to save the day.
Tui: I can't remember for sure now, but I think I went back and added the scene of Tsunami singing the song after I wrote this scene, because I realized I wanted us to know about the song before we got to here.

And neither one was Tsunami, because these dragons could actually sing.
Tui: Ha ha! Sorry, Tsunami, but don't worry, I can't sing, either.

This song meant something, even to dragons hardened on the battlefield and in the arena. They believed in the dragonets and the prophecy.
Tui: This is what makes this scene so important, both for Clay's character arc and for us to understand how he fits into this world. We're limited to the dragonets' perspectives throughout books 1-5, so I needed to find other ways to show how the outside world saw them. And for the most part, the rest of Pyrrhia thinks of the prophecy dragonets as these mystical, legendary figures who will swoop down and save them all. I wanted to tell the story of what it's like to be the perfectly ordinary characters who have to live up to those expectations...and part of that means feeling the weight (and the hope!) of those expectations whenever I could fit them in.

"But he's a--" the other one started.
Tui: A "dragonet of destiny" - even Queen Scarlet's loyal guards see them as these important legendary dragons, although they can't admit it.

5

***Clever,** A Very Clevery Guy* ❤❤❤
[exits, pursued by a bear]
bringing you cool good posts: Dec. 2014 - March 2019
appreciating and supporting you: today - forever!!!!

THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 20-21 | Oncilla

phoenixdragon1690

poke

0

Such is the path of a dreamer: I find my way by moonlight.

~Oncilla~

Queen of Non Sequitur, Bookwyrms, Pangolins, and Bones

Trash Squad, Werewolf, GASTER FOLLOWER

`Writer, roleplayer, nerd`

WoFMBer Dec. 2014-Mar. 2019

THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 20-21 | Oncilla

yellowunicorn154

Cool stuff

@Clever: Osprey actually is mentioned in *Escaping Peril*, three times, I think.

"Peril had never cried; she wasn't sure if she could. But she had felt vast emptiness like this before, opening up inside her ... when Osprey died, when she had to leave Clay the first time, when she found out her mother was dead, and worst of all, when she saw the dragonbite viper sink its fangs into Clay's leg and she thought he would die and she would lose him and the world would not be worth living in anymore."

☆ 3

Yellow

Zebrasarecool

#SunnyLickedAQibli
#ClerilIsAFruit

DemonxYellow

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." ~The Lorax

Christian!

"LICK LICK LICK" she saids as she was put in an assylum

THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 20-21 | Oncilla

cleverdragon364

@Yellow: Oh, thank you so much for telling me! I don't own a copy of Escaping Peril and was in a stressful situation when I read it for the only time years ago, so I couldn't check to see/remember. I'm really relieved that he wasn't forgotten about completely.

☆ 0

***Clever,** A Very Clevery Guy* ❤❤❤
[exits, pursued by a bear]
bringing you cool good posts: Dec. 2014 - March 2019
appreciating and supporting you: today - forever!!!!

THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 20-21 | Oncilla

fairydragon1798

It's it even possible for Peril to cry?

Won't her tears just turn to steam?

ponders

1

~Fairydragon~
She/Her

We *will* never *be forgotten*
for we've all played our parts
and if the memories are erased
they'll still be in our hearts

THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 20-21 | Oncilla

yellowunicorn154

@Clever: All good! It is nice to see Peril think about Osprey again.

@Fairydragon: I read that as "won't her tears just turn to serum?" XD But in all seriousness that's a good question... wouldn't she *need* to have tears? What if she got something in her eye? Does that mean that her lack of tears is a biological disadvantage? Hm...

2

Yellow

Zebrasarecool

#SunnyLickedAQibli
#ClerilIsAFruit

DemonxYellow

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." ~The Lorax

Christian!

"LICK LICK LICK" she saids as she was put in an assylum

THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 20-21 | Oncilla

phoenixdragon1690

Peril's tears are serum spread the news

...Does the firescales thing extend to her eyes? If so, she might not need tears....

And thanks for the reference on Osprey in EP. I was actually wondering about that as I wrote this post, but I wanted to get it out on schedule and not accidentally spend two hours reading, so I didn't look.

4

Such is the path of a dreamer: I find my way by moonlight.

~Oncilla~

Queen of Non Sequitur, Bookwyrms, Pangolins, and Bones

Trash Squad, Werewolf, GASTER FOLLOWER

`Writer, roleplayer, nerd`

WoFMBer Dec. 2014-Mar. 2019

THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 20-21 | Oncilla

phoenixdragon1690

Also: dragons probably have a nicitating membrane, which may do what tears do for humans. At the very least they'd need one to fly without destroying their eyes....

3

Such is the path of a dreamer: I find my way by moonlight.

~Oncilla~

Queen of Non Sequitur, Bookwyrms, Pangolins, and Bones

Trash Squad, Werewolf, GASTER FOLLOWER

`Writer, roleplayer, nerd`

WoFMBer Dec. 2014-Mar. 2019

THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 20-21 | Oncilla

fantasticllama19

oof the scene where they're all singing was my favorite thing in the first arc

2

eureka
moved to @thankfulthunderstorm1 :D

THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 20-21 | Oncilla

cleverdragon364

So do you think dragons *would* be able to cry, even though similar real-life equivalent animals to dragons can't cry (to express sadness, or whatever the reptilian form of sadness is)? That's something I'm really interested in and can't make up my mind about, so I like to hear other people's takes on the topic.

3

***Clever,* *A Very Clevery Guy* ❤❤❤**
[exits, pursued by a bear]
bringing you cool good posts: Dec. 2014 - March 2019
appreciating and supporting you: today - forever!!!!

THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 20-21 | Oncilla

fantasticllama19

i think (i'm not sure though) that somewhere in the series, is a phrase similar to "it's difficult to make a dragon cry" and a scene in which a dragon does cry (i was really interested in that too, and i think i remember finding those as an answer lol)

0

eureka
moved to @thankfulthunderstorm1 :D

THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 20-21 | Oncilla

yellowunicorn154

I just found these:

"Dragons did not cry easily, and Clay had never shed tears in his whole life, no matter how much Kestrel had hurt him with words or claws. ... He realised that he was dangerously close to tears, and he could just imagine how his mother would react to that."

Having the iBooks version of the books is use*ful*.

"Fatespeaker was crying, tears and raindrops together soaking her face. She pressed her talons to her eyes as if she wished she could claw them out."

So dragons do cry. Interesting.

4

Yellow

Zebrasarecool

#SunnyLickedAQibli
#ClerilIsAFruit

DemonxYellow

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." ~The Lorax

Christian!

"LICK LICK LICK" she saids as she was put in an assylum

THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 20-21 | Oncilla

fantasticllama19

@yellow
thanks for finding those!

0

eureka
moved to @thankfulthunderstorm1 :D

THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 20-21 | Oncilla

phoenixdragon1690

poke

0

Such is the path of a dreamer: I find my way by moonlight.

~Oncilla~

Queen of Non Sequitur, Bookwyrms, Pangolins, and Bones

Trash Squad, Werewolf, GASTER FOLLOWER

`Writer, roleplayer, nerd`

WoFMBer Dec. 2014-Mar. 2019

THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 20-21 | Oncilla

phoenixdragon1690

poke

0

Such is the path of a dreamer: I find my way by moonlight.

~Oncilla~

Queen of Non Sequitur, Bookwyrms, Pangolins, and Bones

Trash Squad, Werewolf, GASTER FOLLOWER

`Writer, roleplayer, nerd`

WoFMBer Dec. 2014-Mar. 2019

THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 20-21 | Oncilla

phoenixdragon1690

poke

0

Such is the path of a dreamer: I find my way by moonlight.

~Oncilla~

Queen of Non Sequitur, Bookwyrms, Pangolins, and Bones

Trash Squad, Werewolf, GASTER FOLLOWER

`Writer, roleplayer, nerd`

WoFMBer Dec. 2014-Mar. 2019

SCHOLASTIC
open a world of possible

PRIVACY POLICY • Terms of Use • TM ® & © 1996-2019 Scholastic Inc. All Rights Reserved.